

MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

May 5, 2008

(Approved on June 2, 2008)

Chair Jeffrey Cammack called the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to order at 1:02 pm in Florian Hall, Maine Department of Public Safety Building, 45 Commerce Drive, Augusta. Members present included John Arsenault, Chief Dan Brooks, Stephan Bunker, Chief John Dean, Chief Darrel Fournier, Robert Gardner (for Robert McAleer), Alan Johnston, Geoffrey Maker, Ed Marks, Alex McPhedran, Senator Richard Nass, Harty Norris, Vicki Schmidt, Charles Soltan and Susan Pinette (staff). Members absent included Representative Patricia Blanchette, Jay Bradshaw, Representative Dean Cray, Gerry Gay, Ron Green, Representative Benjamin Pratt, Senator Ethan Strimling and David Wacker.

The Fire Commission extends their congratulations to Chief Darrel Fournier who became a first-time grandfather in April.

Bob Gardner, representing Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), gave a brief report on the relief efforts due to the flooding in Northern Maine. Initial estimates claimed that over 600 structures were affected in Fort Kent.

A motion by Darrel Fournier, seconded by Richard Nass, to accept the minutes of the March 13, 2008 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion by Richard Nass, seconded by Bob Gardner, to accept the amended minutes of April 7, 2008 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The amended minutes include the following two corrections: John Arsenault (page 1) and E-911 (page 2).

Committee Reports

The Spring Conference Committee distributed two documents relating to the 2008 Blaine House Conference. The Committee reported the conference was a financial success and that feedback from attendees and the vendors was positive. Some of the conference expenses included conference center rentals, lodging for speakers, mailing of conference materials and supplies. The partnership with Maine Municipal Association was very successful. The Committee recommended that the Fire Commission continue their relationship with MMA for future conferences. Committee Chair Darrel Fournier announced that due to work commitments he would be unable to continue chairing the Spring Conference Committee. Chair Cammack appointed the following members

to the 2009 Spring Conference Committee- Steve Bunker, Bob Gardiner, Gerry Gay and Jeff Maker. Members discussed the need to start working on the conference as soon as possible. Key issues to be determined include conference date, conference location, facilities contracts, partnerships with other organizations, conference speakers and seminar topics, and vendor/exhibits. Fire Commission members discussed various options regarding the conference date and time, conference location and partnering with other fire service related organizations. Fire Commission members agreed to ask the Spring Conference Committee to present their proposal at the June meeting.

A motion by Richard Nass, seconded by Charlie Soltan, that the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission host and sponsor a Blaine House Conference for First Responders in 2009. The motion passed unanimously.

The Training Facilities Committee reported that additional information is needed before the DVD can be completed. Suggested revisions included additional pictures and looking at partners. The “leave behind”- written information that is distributed following the DVD presentation- is completed. The budget has also exceeded original estimates and the Committee requested that the Fire Commission appropriate additional funds.

A motion by Ed Marks, seconded by John Arsenault, that the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission appropriate an additional \$2000.00 to Southern and Western to complete the project. The motion passed unanimously.

The Best Practices Committee reported there were no new submissions in April and encouraged members to forward any worthy nominations to the committee.

The Recruitment and Retention Committee contacted Penflex, Inc. and requested that Penflex update the existing plan using 2008 numbers. After Penflex submits their revised numbers, the Committee will consider drafting legislation for 2009.

Old Business

The Fire Commission discussed various bills passed during the 123rd Legislature. Maine’s ban on the sale of novelty lighters has been featured prominently around the country. Enforcement of the ban does not initially appear to be an issue. Members had a lengthy discussion regarding residential sprinklers. Members agreed that informing and educating the public regarding the benefits of residential sprinklers, while also correcting the myths, should be a priority. Maine’s fire service members partnering with sprinkler manufacturers, insurance companies, government leaders and others to readdress the issue of

education was suggested. Fire Commission members discussed several ideas and opportunities to educate and inform the public. These included the use of the “sprinkler house” and other props and visual aids at the 2009 Spring Conference, other conferences and conventions, and State fairs. Fire Commission members were informed that the Town of Randolph recently adopted a residential sprinkler requirement for all new residences and that the number of permits for residential sprinklers statewide has risen.

New Business

Fire Commission members discussed several issues including consolidation of dispatch centers in Maine. In October 2005 the Maine Fire Chiefs’ Association proposed a plan to reduce the number of dispatch centers and in November 2005, the Fire Commission agreed in concept with the MFCA’s proposal. Earlier this year, the Legislature’s Utilities Committee and the Maine Public Utilities Commission (PUC) both discussed this issue. Fire Commission members suggested that technology is available that could increase the efficiency and quality, and reduce the number, of dispatch centers. Concerns regarding the unequal division of payment among communities and the level of services were discussed. Members agreed to continue discussions at the June meeting and invite Representative Peter Rines, a member of the Utilities Committee, to join the Fire Commission.

A motion by Darrel Fournier, seconded by Jeff Cammack, that the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission host Maine Fire Service Day at the State House in 2009 and to direct staff to reserve the Hall of Flags. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion by Jeff Cammack, seconded by Alex McPhedran, that the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission cancels their July meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

With no further business to come before the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, Chair Cammack adjourned the meeting at 2:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Pinette

Meeting Schedule and Dates of Interest

<u>Monday, June 2, 2008</u>	MEETING	Florian Hall	1:00pm
-----------------------------	---------	--------------	--------

The July meeting has been cancelled. Happy July 4th !!

<u>Monday, August 4, 2008</u>	MEETING	Florian Hall	1:00pm
-------------------------------	---------	--------------	--------

<u>Monday, September 8, 2008</u>	MEETING	Florian Hall	1:00pm
----------------------------------	---------	--------------	--------

<u>Monday, October 6, 2008</u>	MEETING	Florian Hall	1:00pm
--------------------------------	---------	--------------	--------

<u>Monday, November 3, 2008</u>	MEETING	Florian Hall	1:00pm
---------------------------------	---------	--------------	--------

<u>Monday, November 4, 2008</u>	ELECTION DAY		
---------------------------------	---------------------	--	--

<u>Monday, December 1, 2008</u>	MEETING	Florian Hall	1:00pm
---------------------------------	---------	--------------	--------

To be scheduled:

Visit to the New Hampshire Fire Academy